

The Second Letter of John

*. **Who wrote the letter?**

The letter itself has no stated author (no name is given in the text). In the opening of the letter, the writer is referred to as “the elder” implying one who is a respected man of authority among the Christians of that area. Even though the writer is unknown, tradition strongly indicates that John the Apostle is the author. This is supported by the fact that the author appears to be an eyewitness and a person of authority among the early church.

*. **When was it written?**

The letter appears to be written during the late 80’s or early 90’s. The church is preparing to experience a tremendous persecution. In addition, heresy is a constant threat. The church is in a crisis – and another crisis for this church is on the horizon of which they do not know: soon John the Apostle, their leader, will be exiled to the Isle of Patmos from which he will write the Revelation.

*. **To whom was it written?**

The recipients of this letter appear to be a particular church in the area of Ephesus. The particular church is unknown but it is apparently a church that looks towards the Apostle John for direction and encouragement.

*. **Why was it written?**

False teachers had infiltrated the churches in the area around Ephesus. These heretics were teaching a false doctrine of salvation based upon one’s personal gaining of knowledge (which later became known as the heresy of Gnosticism -- from the Greek work for “knowledge”). John is writing to remain the church that they know the truth – and that they must remain in the truth that is known.

*. **What is the main topic?**

All Christians have fellowship with Jesus based upon His sacrifice on their behalf which results in right living and godly loving.

2 Jn.

1 The elder to the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in truth; and not only I, but also all who know the truth, **2** for the sake of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever: **3** Grace, mercy and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love. **4** I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father. **5** Now I ask you, lady, not as though I were writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another. **6** And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it. **7** For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. **8** Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward. **9** Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. **10** If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting; **11** for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds. **12** Though I have many things to write to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, so that your joy may be made full. **13** The children of your chosen sister greet you.